



Prepositions

Prepositions are words that show position, direction, or how two words or ideas are related to each other. Specifically, a preposition shows the relationship between its object and some other word in the sentence.

Raul hid under the stairs. (*Under* shows the relationship between *hid* and *stairs*.)

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Prepositional Phrases

A preposition never appears alone; it is always part of a prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase includes the preposition, the object of the preposition, and the modifiers of the object. (See pages 554–555.)

Raul's friends looked in the clothes hamper. (preposition: *in*; object: *hamper*; modifiers: *the, clothes*)

A prepositional phrase functions as an adjective or as an adverb.

They checked the closet with all the winter coats. (*With all the winter coats* functions as an adjective modifying *closet*.)

They wandered around the house looking for him. (*Around the house* functions as an adverb modifying *wandered*.)

NOTE If a word found in the list of prepositions has no object, it is not a preposition. It is probably an adverb.

Raul had never won at hide 'n' seek before. (*Before* is an adverb that modifies *had won*.)

Prepositions

aboard	apart from	beyond	from	like	outside	under
about	around	but	from among	near	outside of	underneath
above	aside from	by	from between	near to	over	until
according to	at	by means of	from under	next to	over to	unto
across	away from	concerning	in	of	owing to	up
across from	back of	considering	in addition to	off	past	up to
after	because of	despite	in front of	on	prior to	upon
against	before	down	in place of	on account of	regarding	with
along	behind	down from	in regard to	on behalf of	since	within
along with	below	during	in spite of	on top of	through	without
alongside	beneath	except	inside	onto	throughout	
alongside of	beside	except for	inside of	opposite	to	
amid	besides	excepting	instead of	out	together with	
among	between	for	into	out of	toward	

Grammar Practice

Prepositions



Write each prepositional phrase that appears in the following paragraphs. Underline the preposition and circle the object of the preposition.

Example: Spiders live everywhere, even in the finest houses.
in the finest houses

Although many people cringe at the sight of spiders, even dangerous spiders don't look for people as prey. Spiders prefer insects, and they eat billions of these pests.

Spiders capture different kinds of insects in the air and on the ground. Sticky spiderwebs trap insects. Some spiders jump out of special burrows to catch grasshoppers. Other spiders stand very still, just waiting for insects that run into their waiting jaws. All spiders have powerful venom that paralyzes their victims. Fortunately, spiders do not prey on humans. They simply go about their business looking for their next insect meal, and people can be glad about that.



For each of the following sentences, write whether the underlined word is a preposition or an adverb.

Example: When I see a spider in my room, I scoop it up and throw it outside.
adverb

1. When my mom sees a spider, she runs around the house, yelling for someone to get rid of it.
2. In the garden, there are quite a few spiders walking about.
3. Yesterday I found a big yellow one under the watering can.
4. Another one was crawling down a sunflower stalk.
5. I wanted to look around for more.
6. However, I had to cut the grass, and I was running behind.